

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for steeping barley, comprising a container for barley to be steeped, with a floor in which passageways are provided for passing water between the underside of the floor and the barley to be steeped in the container, characterised in that a water line system (13) is directly connected to passageways (6) for feeding water and/or gases through these passageways (6).
2. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the water line system is suitable for discharging water from the barley (5) to be steeped through the passageways (6).
3. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterised in that the water line system is set up in such a manner that it supplies water to the barley (5) to be steeped through the passageways(6) starting from the underside of the floor (4).
4. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the passageways (6) are provided with sieves (8).
5. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1 to 4, characterised in that the container (2) has a round shape when viewed from above, wherein the passageways (6) are arranged in radially orientated rows (7, 7a, 7b).

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 5, characterised in that adjacent radially orientated rows (7, 7a, 7b) have a varying length.
7. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the water line system is provided under the floor (4) with a number of shared water line elements and water branch line elements between a shared water line element and a passageway (6).
8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 5 ~~or 6 and according to claim 7~~, characterised in that the shared water line elements are radially orientated.
9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, characterised in that the shared water line elements are oriented between two adjacent, radially oriented rows (7) of passageways (6) when viewed from above.
10. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 7 to 9, characterised in that a number of shared water line elements are connected to a water main line element.
11. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that a reservoir is provided for cleaning agents, which is connected by a cleaning agent shutoff mechanism connected to the water line system to supply cleaning agent to the water line system.
12. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that a CO₂ line system is connected under the floor (4) directly to passageways (6) for removing CO₂ from the barley (5) to be steeped through these passageways (6).
13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, characterised in that the CO₂ line system is provided under the floor (4) with a number of shared

CO₂ line elements (16) and CO₂ branch line elements between a shared CO₂ line element (16) and a passageway (6).

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, characterised in that a number of shared CO₂ line elements are connected to a CO₂ main line element.
15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 6 ~~or a dependent claim and according to 13 or a dependent claim~~, characterised in that the shared water line elements and shared CO₂ line elements are formed at least in part by the same shared line elements.
16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 6 ~~or a dependent claim and according to 13 or a dependent claim~~, characterised in that the water branch line elements and the CO₂ branch line elements are formed at least in part by the same branch line elements.
17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9 ~~or a dependent claim and according to 15 or a dependent claim~~, characterised in that water shutoff valves (19, 20, 21) are provided between the shared line elements and the water main line element.
18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14 ~~or a dependent claim and according to 15 or a dependent claim~~, characterised in that CO₂ shutoff mechanisms (22) are provided between the shared line elements and the CO₂ main line element.
19. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that an air line system is connected under the floor (4) to passageways (6) in order to pass air to the barley (5) to be steeped through these passageways (6).
20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, characterised in that the air line system is provided with a number of shared air line elements and

air branch line elements between a shared air line element and a passageway (6), preferably under the floor (4).

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 20, characterised in that a number of shared air line elements is connected to an air main line element (14).
22. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21, characterised in that air valves (23) are provided between the shared air line elements and the air main line element (14).
23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 22, characterised in that a control system is provided that is suitable for the individual or group operation of various air shutoff valves (23).
24. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the container (2) is provided near its upper side with a scraper in order to scrape or collect elements circulating on the water as the scraper body (30) shifts in a displacement direction along the surface of the water.
25. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 23 ~~and claim 24~~, characterised in that the control system is suitable for opening one or a plurality of air shutoff valves (23) that are located on the front side of the scraper body (30) viewed from above in the displacement direction.
26. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~at least any one of claims 1 to 25~~ claim 1, characterised in that the floor (4) has a partially open, gas-permeable surface constituting less than 5% of the overall surface.
27. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 26~~ claim 1, characterised in that the percentage of open surface measures less than 3%.

28. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~at least any one of claims 1 to 27~~ claim 1, characterised in that the line systems are stepped.

29. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~at least any one of claims 1 to 28~~ claim 1, characterised in that the line systems are routed to the outside at or under floor (4) level.